

A National Strategy to Revitalize Environmental Public Health Services

In November 2000, the Department of Health and Human Services published objectives for improving the nation's health, *Healthy People 2010*. It stated that: "various reports and evaluations have described the continuing deterioration of the national public health system; health departments are closing, technology and information systems are outmoded, emerging and drug-resistant diseases threaten to overwhelm resources, and serious training inadequacies weaken the capacity of the public health workforce to address new threats and adapt to changes in the health care market;" and "all public health services depend on the presence of basic infrastructure."

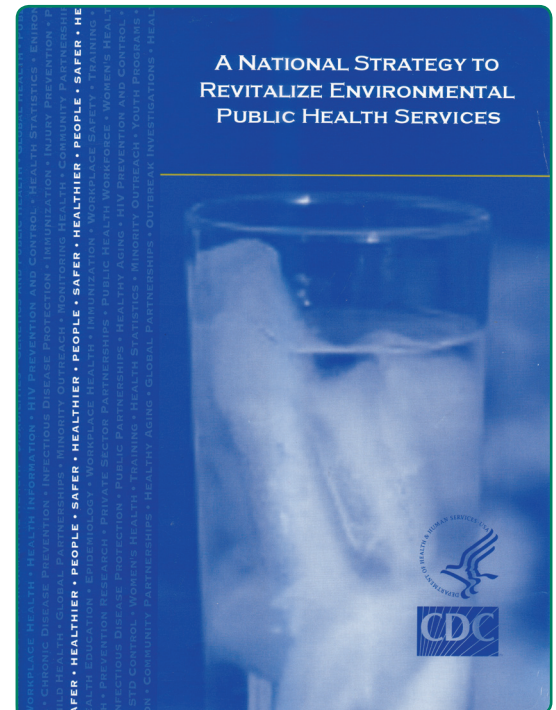
In response to the recognized need for *A National Strategy to Revitalize Environmental Public Health Services*, the Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services of the National Center for Environmental Health formed a steering committee that spearheaded a process and will be responsible for developing and implementing the final strategy. This strategy was developed with the participation of a 31-member External Partners

Working Group representing the environmental public health and protection practice community; special populations; academia; advocacy groups; and representatives of other CDC centers, institutes, and offices, as well as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The draft strategy was then reviewed by more than 100 additional environmental health and public health experts and advocacy organizations.

With its goals and objectives, the strategy is a starting point for rejuvenating the environmental health system at the federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local levels in the United States. The implementation of the goals, objectives, and activities described in the strategy will enhance our ability to achieve CDC’s vision for the 21st Century: Healthy People in a Healthy World—Through Prevention. Many of the activities described herein build on existing or developing efforts or are in the planning stages. All will require building and improving long-term strategic partnerships, and commitments by all stakeholders, as well as additional resources.

In summary, the goals listed in the strategy include

- Building capacity at all levels
- Supporting research to translate science into practice
- Fostering the leadership necessary to apply public health principles of assessment, policy development, and assurance in the field of environmental health
- Improving ability to communicate and market environmental public health services



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- Supporting systems to improve the performance of the environmental public health work force across the United States
- Creating viable and long-lasting strategic partnerships among all the stakeholders.

A National Strategy to Revitalize Environmental Public Health Services should be viewed as a working document that will be modified over time. The next step is to identify needed resources, organize and implement activities described in the strategic plan, and create a timeline for the accomplishment of objectives.

For More Information

The strategy is available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs>.